THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Tiger Poaching in Similipal Reserve

3425. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the large scale tiger poaching in Orissa's Similipal Reserve, the largest tiger sanctuary of the State;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action to prevent the large scale poaching; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) As informed by the State, no such report has come to light.

Increase in Recorded Forest Area

3426. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Recorded Forest Area (RFA) had increased to 77474000 hectare in 2003;

(b) if so, the reason of such increase;

(c) the process by which land is notified as Recorded Forest Area (RFA);

(d) the break-up of this increase district-wise; and

(e) the type of land use on this newly categorized Recorded Forest Area (RFA) prior to its declaration as RFA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Recorded Forest Area (RFA) increased to 77474000 hectares as per the "State of Forest Report (SFR)-2003". Recorded Forest Area (RFA) is the geographical area recorded as forest in Government records". The increase/